

USS TOPEKA CLG-8 Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 6, No.2

May 1995



Committee:

Jack Connery, President; Dudley E. Cass, Secretary/Treasurer;
Dick Jolliffe, Assistant Secretary, Don Anderson, Reunion '95 Chairman
Jack Connery, Newsletter Editor

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's almost reunion time again. Doesn't seem that long ago that we all said goodbye on a Sunday morning in San Diego.

This year, we go to the other big Navy city, on the other coast, Norfolk, Va. My last tour of duty before retirement in 1977 was in Norfolk, and I have many fond memories of the city and its people. It certainly wasn't like the stories I had heard about a sailor's life in Norfolk in the early days. After reading the literature that Don Anderson sent, I find that Norfolk has continued to change over the last 20 years.

Like San Diego, the downtown waterfront area of Norfolk has been completely revitalized. In 1977, I lived close to the downtown area, and I don't recognize any of the pictures of that area now.

There is only one word to describe the Marriott Waterside Hotel: Elegant.

The downtown waterfront area, the Marriott, all the Tidewater area attractions, and three days of good times with old friends will be things to remember for a long time.

Plan on joining former shipmates in Norfolk August 17-19. Your registration form is enclosed. Complete it and get it back to Dudley by July 17. And don't forget to make hotel reservations before August 1. See ya in Norfolk.

Jack Connery



An Aegis Cruiser at the Waterfront in Downtown Norfolk. The Waterside Marriott is in the background at the left. Photo by Jeff Goldberg

BOARD OF ADVISORS

The Board of Advisors met recently in San Diego. The meeting was chaired by Don Nellis. The following items were addressed:

- The Treasurer's Report, showing assets in excess of \$9,000, was reviewed.
- Plans for the reunion in Norfolk were reviewed.
- Discussed Scholarship Fund. Dudley Cass reported a total of \$1,135 in contributions. It was decided that this is not enough to sustain a scholarship, and that alternatives would be presented at the annual meeting in Norfolk.
- A recommended slate of officers and new advisory board members for 1996 was discussed. This slate will be announced in the next newsletter, prior to the reunion and annual meeting.

WELCOME ABOARD (SINCE FEB. 1995)

Leo Soucy, EM3 (65-66) Barre, VT
Michael Neary, DK3 (67-69), San Francisco, CA
Roger Martin, Norfolk, VA
George Cafego, PFC (65-67), S. Rackwood, MI
Jay Davis, CPL (64-66), Kansas City, MO
John Noggle, LCPL (65-67), Ozark, AR
Leonard Martin, PFC (65-67), Jay, OK
Steve Scarlett, CPL (65-67), Vallonia, IN
Bob Williams, SN (59-60), Portland, OR
Mike Leahy, MM3 (66-69), Fraser, MI
Gerald Harnisch, ET3 (59-61), Fremont, NE
George Conger, BM2 (59-64), Sweet Springs, MO
Terry Honan, ETSN (59-63), Chicago, IL
Mike Lawrence, BT2 (59-63), Worcester, MA

TAPS

Armond H. Peterson, PC1 (63-65) passed away Jan. 10, 1995, in Fairview, Utah.

LETTERS

Ed Note: I've said many times, "write letters." Well, this time, you did. I did not have room for all so will save some for the next issue. Because of these letters, I think it is one of the best newsletters we've had. Keep them coming.

Dear Dudley:

Myrtle and I are looking forward to the upcoming reunion in August in Norfolk. Hope there is a good turnout and is enjoyed by all. We were sorry to miss the reunion last year. I was just getting over hip replacement surgery and was not up to making the trip. See you in August.

Leonard Van Germent (63-65)

Dear Dudley:

Please credit my dues for 1995 and put the rest in the scholarship fund.

Easy winter this year in Louisiana, but there is a downside. Never got enough cold weather to kill off the bugs. Moisture plus bugs make for a bad summer.

Bill Gardiner (62-64)

Dear Dudley and Ruth:

Hope all is well with you. I've been keeping pretty busy. I retired from Pacific Bell last year and have found plenty of projects to involve myself in. It's still not like the "grind" of a real job though, so I may look around for some honest work (if there is any left in San Diego).

Steve Manley (66-68)

Dear Dudley:

We are looking forward to the reunion in Norfolk. I believe you had mentioned the possibility of finding lost or misplaced Topeka shipmates. In 1962-63, John Elio was a member of S-1 Division. I haven't heard from John since 1963. At that time he was a resident of Denver, Colo. Is there any way to trace him?

Steve Archbold (60-63)

Dear Dudley:

Since the February newsletter, and the article about the regional newsletter, I have been contacted by several shipmates, and have even had coffee with some. Topeka shipmates are probably a much tighter family than we realize.

Joanne and I are looking forward to Norfolk in August. We will be taking two teenagers with us this year. Our kids told us that it seems we had too much fun last year and they want to "check things out."

Dick Walker (66-68)

Dear Dudley:

We missed the mini reunion at Laughlin once again. We were off skiing at Mount Bachelor in Bend, Oregon, and came home to receive the February issue of the newsletter.

Jack Timmons (64-65)

Dear Dudley:

Check for 95-96 dues enclosed. Also a post card. Will you give me David Six's address and phone number. He was an HM3 from Sarasota, Fla.

Hope you don't have an unplanned swimming pool in your back yard. Seems California has many problems.

Herb Hedge (64-66)

Dear Dudley and Ruth:

It was great to see you in Laughlin. Many thanks for all your trouble in getting us together and using your room as "home base."

Jerry and Leanne Pennington (63-64)

Dear Dudley:

This year I received a Christmas card from LTJG Jim Curtin who obtained my address from you. You do a wonderful service patching up great friendships that somehow get lost in the rush of life.

Pete Mercier (60-61)

Dear Dudley:

I'm looking forward very much to attending the 95 reunion in Norfolk. It will be great meeting all the old shipmates that will be attending.

John Hojaboom (60-68)

Dear Ed.

As an aid to improving communication among association members, I would like to encourage exchange of InterNet addresses. I would be glad to serve as a focal point for accumulation of addresses and in turn forward on by e-mail to those who request updates. My address on the net is samii74604@aol.com

Whether the foregoing idea is "run up the flag pole" or not, you have my permission to use in the newsletter.

Sam Sheehan (63-65)

Ed Note: It has been run up the flag pole. Let me know what kind of response you get. Give me a call.

Dear Dudley:

I would like to pay up and officially join the Topeka Reunion Association. Have been meaning to do so for some time, for I have thoroughly enjoyed the newsletters, and had hoped to attend last years reunion in San Diego. Maybe this year in Norfolk.

I, as a young LT., was in the Commissioning Crew of Topeka at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Later served as Comm Officer, one of the most rewarding experiences of my naval career, although I had many good times thereafter. I retired in 1980 as a Captain, with my last command having been that of CO of the Blue Ridge.

I offer my sincere appreciation for what you are doing for this find group of Navy shipmates.

Bill Hart (60-62)

Dear Dudley:

I was saddened to read of RADM Baumberger's passing. We sailed together aboard Topeka during a '62 WESTPAC deployment--back when there were no wars happening. I was privileged to accompany the Admiral on several tours of the local golf courses; we had very close "handicaps." I was a LTJG, but on the golf course, RHNP (rank has no privileges).

I maintain a home in Seoul, Korea, where I spend April-September each year, thus missing the reunions. Keep up the great work.

Tom Fleming (61-62)

Dear Dudley:

I've enclosed my check for the '95 dues. However, at this time, I think I won't be attending the reunion in Norfolk.

My health has improved greatly this year, but I'm traveling too much and will have to skip this one.

My best wishes to you and all our shipmates.

Jack Mansfield (CO, 62-64)

Dear Dudley:

Sorry we could not make the Laughlin get together. I had an appointment at the VA for a check up. I am doing fine and looking forward to Norfolk.

We are going to Nova Scotia in July, then will head to Norfolk and the reunion.

Joe and Connie Peragine (60-66)

Dear Dudley:

I moved July 1, 1994, and this week is the first newsletter I've received since. I sure missed getting it. I don't know if I told you before, but I was a data processing manager in Myrtle Beach, SC. In December, 1982, I got MS, and I have been totally disabled since May '83. I am still able to walk, exercise, work in and around the house, so I really feel fortunate. My oldest son is 22, living in Phoenix, Az. My second son graduates in June '95 (honor roll). My third son is a sophomore (also honor roll), and my daughter is in the eighth grade (she's smart too). I am going to the Philippines in April, 1996. That is where my wife is from.

Jim Kittinger (65-68)

Dear Dudley:

Sorry I didn't make last year's reunion, but we were preparing for a month long trip to Australia to visit old friends and new places. We hope to see Earl Caywood in June.

We won't be able to make it to Norfolk in August, much as we'd like to. We have another very good friend there from another ship that we would like to visit. Please pass on our best wishes to all that attend.

Robby Robbins (60-65)

Dear Dudley:

Enjoy your newsletter. Since my Navy days, I have worked in the soft drink industry. Was President of Coca Cola in Los Angeles, and since 1990, President/CEO of Hansen Natural Beverages in Anaheim. Unfortunately, your summer reunions conflict with my "harvest season." We make hay when the sun shines.

Hansen's is a line of all natural sodas, teas, lemonades and fruit juices found at your local supermarket/club store. Enclosed are a few coupons. Keep up the good communication.

Harold Taber, Jr. (63-64)

Dear Dudley:

Enclosed find my reunion check for 1995. Thank you for all your efforts. You have obviously been very successful, and have brought many of Topeka's shipmates back together. My wife and I attended our first reunion in San Diego last summer, and were reunited with very dear friends from Washington State. We've stayed in touch over the years, but haven't been able to get together as often as we would have liked. I was flooded by memories of my Navy experiences, and really haven't stopped thinking about those wonderful days since.

Again, thank you for all your work. It is greatly appreciated by all. Have a great time in Norfolk. Hope to see you again at a reunion a little farther west, possibly Topeka.

Dick Schuder (1962-65)

Dear Dudley

Enclosed are my 1995 dues with an additional check to help pay the costs with writing and printing the directory. Please send me the latest directory, showing the newest members.

I'm especially interested in getting in touch with a couple of people I saw at the San Diego Reunion. I had a very good time there, and saw a lot of people I hadn't been in touch with for many years. I had the names, addresses and phone numbers written down, and couldn't find them when I got home. Hope to see you all in August in Norfolk.

Larry (Pat) Patriquin (61-64)

Dear Cass's

Just received my copy of the last news letter and see I am a delinquent dues payer.

I was positive I sent my dues in mid January, but can't find it in the check book so guess I am a "delinquent." Marcella said I better do it right now, so here goes.

As for the reunion in Norfolk, we're playing it by ear. We have to put a new roof on our home this year, and the garage door needs replacing. So, as for right now, we don't know.

Joe Heeney (63-66)

Dear Ed:

Please find enclosed my dues for 1995. I noted that the last newsletter was posted at .32 cents. Have you considered a bulk rate for a non profit organization? The rate per parcel would be less than half the .32 cents.

Ron Ostrowski (1959-63)

Ed Note: We tried bulk rate mailing the newsletter before last. When all things are considered, especially being able to have mail forwarded, it is better (and only costs just a bit more) to go first class, with the number we are mailing.

**USS TOPEKA (CLG-8)
REUNION ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
c/o JACK CONNERY
16334 SOUTH LEWIS
BIXBY, OK 74008**



REMEMBER WHEN...?

We came together to save the life of a Japanese woman who had extreme medical difficulties delivering a son in October, 1962, in Osaka, Japan. The call came and Topekamen responded, donating 272 pints of blood.

Topekamen heard about this need before the ship's arrival in Osaka. Officials at the Osaka blood bank said many lives would be saved by the donation of 272 pints of blood.

At the same time, Tom Eagling brought to our attention a young man in El Dorado, Ark., who was blinded by lightning while playing baseball. The youngster was revived by mouth-to-mouth artificial respiration by one of his coaches.

Two expensive operations were needed to return his sight. The El Dorado News-Times set up an account for donations. Eagling read about this and passed the word, and fund raising was started. Topekamen sent \$1,000.

Submitted by Julius Vaughn (60-63)

Ed note: Julius submitted the actual article from a newspaper describing these events. I couldn't help but turn it over to see what was on the other side. There was an article about another Cruiser sailor, a Seaman Apprentice, from the Providence (CLG 6), saving two young Japanese brothers from drowning in waters off Yokosuka Naval Base.

Cruiser sailors are all right. We could have used some in Oklahoma City during our tragedy in the Heartland.

**REUNION REGISTRATION
1995 REUNION, AUGUST 17-20
NORFOLK, VA**

NAME _____ DATE _____

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Will you be staying at the Reunion Hotel? Yes _____ No _____

Sign up for Tour and Golf:

	<u>Activities</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Number of Persons</u>
1.	Golf	0800 to 1400	_____
2.	Williamsburg Pottery Factory	0900 to 1700	_____
3.	Norfolk Naval Base Tour	1400 to 1600	_____
4.	Williamsburg/Jamestown Tour	0800 to 1700	_____

Banquet Entrees:

This is being negotiated with the hotel and will be listed in the next newsletter. There will be a choice of fish or meat.

Reunion Fee:

Deadline for Reunion Fee is 17 July 1995
Make checks payable to: "Topeka Reunion"
Mail to: Dudley Cass
3028 Bonita Woods Drive
Bonita, CA 91902

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Price (each)</u>	<u>Number of Persons</u>	<u>Total</u>
Thursday	\$10	_____	\$ _____
Friday	25	_____	_____
Saturday	40	_____	_____
All three days	\$75	_____	_____
TOTAL \$			_____

NOTE: *There is no charge for children 17 and under.
**Reunion Fee is totally refundable if you have to cancel.

NAME TAG INFORMATION:

First Name (or Nickname) and last name will be on the name tags provided for attendees. Please **print** names to be used below:

First Name	Last Name
_____	_____
_____	_____

REUNION NOTES

1. Hotel Reservations - for the Norfolk Waterside Marriott are to be made directly through the Reservations Department (804-627-4200). Reservations must be received on or before 1 August 1995. Be sure to tell them you are with the Topeka Reunion.
2. Parking Policy - Parking is available at the Main Street Parking Garage across from the hotel. A covered pedestrian bridge connects the parking garage to the hotel and convention center. The parking charges in 1994 were \$8 per vehicle, per night for self-parking and \$10 per vehicle for valet parking.
3. Tours and Golfing Outing -
 - **Jamestown/Williamsburg** combination tour cost \$31 per person
Date: Friday, 18 August 1995 0800 to 1700 (min. 30 people)
 - **Williamsburg Pottery** Factory and Clothing outlet \$15 per person
Date: Saturday, 19 August 1995 0900 to 1630 (min. 30 people)
 - **Golf** at either Norfolk Naval Base or Little Creek (\$30 per person-approx.)
Date: Friday, 18 August 1995 0800 to 1400.
Note: One military person required for each foursome. If there are not sufficient numbers of retired military to allow play at a Military Base other arrangements will be made at a Civilian Course. Have golfers respond asap so there will be time to switch courses if necessary.
 - Other attractions (See Greater Norfolk Visitor's Guide)
Nautilus - The National Maritime Center
Bush Gardens
Mac Arthur Memorial
The Chrysler Museum
Virginia Zoo
Botanical Gardens
Ferry Ride to Olde Town Portsmouth
Virginia Beach
Norfolk Inner Harbor Cruise
Great Dismal Swamp
5. Anyone requiring additional information about Norfolk should contact **Don Anderson at 703-491-4883.**